

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry tonight voted against HR 3590, the Senate version of health care legislation supported by the Administration and Democratic leadership.

“America needs the right kind of health care reform that lowers costs, improves health outcomes, and protects vulnerable persons,” Fortenberry said. “This bill, however, substantially shifts costs to more unsustainable government spending, erodes health care liberties, and increases health care expenses for many Americans. I cannot support it.

“There is a better way - one that is bipartisan, with no backroom deals, and devoid of the Washington-style elitism that has plagued this debate. If we had taken a more pragmatic approach, we potentially could have reached 80 percent agreement on such critical issues as prevention and wellness, pre-existing conditions, and more affordable insurance options for small businesses, farmers and families. These are winning solutions for real reform and the building blocks of sustainable, patient-centered health care.”

Fortenberry, a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has supported various health care reform initiatives, including promoting health and wellness incentives, enhancing Health Savings Accounts, expanding existing public services such as community health centers and hospice care reimbursement, as well as creating new insurance models for vulnerable persons.

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